



By Brigadier General Kenneth M. Taylor Jr.



#### STANDARDS, VALUES, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All Alaska ANG members are expected to follow certain basic standards and values of professional conduct and behavior. General Fogleman, Chief of Staff for the Air Force, has defined the three most important “core values” in this way:

· *Integrity first*      · *Service above self*      · *Excellence in all we do*

Guard members at all levels have a duty to recognize and carry out our standards and values. Junior members must follow them, while supervisors must not only follow, but also enforce them. Commanders and senior leaders have a special responsibility — they must not only follow and enforce standards and values, they must set them as well.

This is not an academic discussion. As a result of recent investigations, two senior Alaska ANG officers are no longer part of our organization. Both abused their positions of trust and power, including having unprofessional relationships with subordinates. These abuses will not be tolerated. I want to express my gratitude for everyone who took the time and courage to come forward, and I apologize on behalf of command that these situations developed as far as they did before we took action.

Leadership positions carry great trust that must be honored at all times. We must be aggressive in “doing the right thing”, correcting situations today—before they become tomorrow’s problem. As our people gain confidence that the leadership will act decisively, more situations will come to light. Though the process will not be pleasant for those involved, it will lead to a more capable and enjoyable Alaska Air Guard in which to serve.

We are moving forward aggressively to set, enforce and carry out values and standards so that everyone knows what’s expected. During the March UTA, senior leaders devoted a day at the 168th ARW focusing on issues of leadership, standards and accountability. We will conduct similar sessions at the 176th Wing during the April or May UTA, and at both Wings on a recurring basis. I look forward to your support and your feedback as we move forward together to build a better Alaska Air National Guard.

#### RECRUITING SUPPORT APPRECIATED

Support for the Recruiting program in the Alaska Air National Guard is outstanding. The 176 WG Recruiting Office is extremely busy, thanks to the membership of the Air Guard. Efforts of unit members at Kulis are paying great dividends. Many 176<sup>th</sup> members have given special help, such as school visits, conducting tours or speaking at personal organizations and clubs. I am proud of your accomplishments. We are also looking forward to some help from the National Guard Bureau to finance additional recruiters to assist while we are training our new staff. I must also praise the members of the MPF and the Medical Squadron, who have made extra efforts to take care of our newest members and to ensure that their transition to our unit is quick and efficient. At the 168<sup>th</sup> ARW, the new team has a little head start, since their strength is at 100%. One new member in the team, and a change in the Recruiting Office Supervisor, have been smooth transitions. The selections of outstanding members for these positions are a good foundation for success. The Recruiting Office in River Mall in Fairbanks is staying busy with interested applicants, and working some new innovative ideas to increase leads. Again, in the 168<sup>th</sup> a special thanks to the MPF, for being pro-active team members. We must also acknowledge the AGS and MS for their contributions, as well as the COMM Flight for assistance in advertising and special projects. Some internal leads are still being received, however, I challenge all members of the 168<sup>th</sup> to get as involved as the 176<sup>th</sup> Wing.

**GENERAL NECRASON REMEMBERED.** Over 200 Alaskans came forward to pay final respects to Major General Conrad F. Necrason - former Adjutant General to Governors Wally Hickel, Keith Miller and Jay Hammond. Personal remembrances and tributes were offered by Governor Hickel, Bonnie Carroll, Anchorage Times Editor Bill Tobin, Colonel Jerry Gillean and the Necrason daughters. The memorial was given at Holy Family Cathedral in Anchorage, with Governor Knowles ordering all Alaska Flags to half staff for the day. General Necrason is best remembered for saving the Alaska Air Guard, in the mid-70s, when it otherwise may have ended up without aircraft or a mission.

**UPDATES.** Actual count for patients seen during the recent Arctic Care Exercise was set at 4,500 - more than twice the number helped in the first two years of the event. Kudos to Col Marjorie Paulsen, SMSgt Kathy Hamby, and their medical team from the 168<sup>th</sup> Clinic who were instrumental in providing care during this training.

**AIR GUARD DEPLOYMENT TO AUSTRALIA.** Ninety five members of the Alaska Air Guard deployed to Rockhampton and Brisbane Australia from March 5-23, supporting the Pacific Air Force’s Joint Exercise *Tandum Thrust*. The majority, 85, of the deployed team came from the 176<sup>th</sup> Wing with their four C-130H Hercules aircraft. The other part of the team includes ten members from the 168<sup>th</sup> ARW with their KC-135R Strato Tanker.

**THREE MEN AND A GLACIER.** Three snowmachiners are lucky to be alive after plunging down an eight story deep crevasse Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. The men were riding their machines off a main trail near Brontosaurus Mountain where the Tazlina and Nelchina glacier meet. Two other snowmachiners witnessed the incident and drove to a nearby roadhouse and called the State Troopers. The Troopers called the RCC, who called the 210<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron, Det 1, at Eielson AFB. The RCC also arranged for members of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Team to be flown to the site. The pararescuemen of the 210<sup>th</sup> RQS successfully removed the three trapped snowmachiners from the crevasse and they were flown to Alaska Regional Hospital.